



Institute of Local Government Studies

Youth Economic Inclusion Through Next Generation Local Economic Development

Concept Note

**Workshop on Entrepreneurial and Intrapreneurial Skills
Development for Youth Business Groups & LG Officers**



INCLUDE

June 2024

1. INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

The “Youth Economic Inclusion through Next Generation Local Economic Development (NGLED)” is a three-year project that is being implemented by the Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) in collaboration with the Knowledge Platform of Inclusive Development Policies (INCLUDE)¹. This project seeks to pursue action research in 5 local government (LG) jurisdictions (districts) in Ghana to provide evidence towards adoption of a national programme on ‘Next Generation Local Economic Development’ (NGLED) to create sustainable decent jobs and income growth for unemployed graduate youth.

LED is a development strategy based on the use of endogenous resources to create production, jobs and income growth in a geographical area. In Ghana, the Local Governance Act, 2016 (Act 936) enjoins Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to promote LED, support productive activities and remove any obstacles to initiative and development at the district level. The Ministry of Local Government, Decentralisation and Rural Development (MLGDRD) has subsequently developed two national policies on LED. Also, in the context of the National Decentralisation Policy and Strategy (2020-2024), LED is highlighted as one of the six policy thrusts with the objective to create an enabling environment for income growth, sustained business development and decent job at the local level.

In practice, however, over the years the focus on decentralization and local governance had been on bringing government and services closer to the people with less attention to LED and job creation. The marginalization of LED and job creation at the LG level comes at the back of an ideology that “it is not the business of government to do business or create jobs”. Governments are only required to create an enabling environment with an expectation that private enterprises will take the lead and create jobs. Where LGs have supported LED, there is little evidence that their approach had facilitated job creation and income growth.

The national statistics shows that unemployment rate among young adults between 15-24 years is about 32.8% and much higher in some regions (GSS, 2022). Creating adequate jobs to absorb the growing youthful population has become arguably the single most intractable development challenge that is confronting the government. In 2016, the World Bank estimated that given Ghana’s growing youth population, about 300,000 new jobs would have to be created each year to absorb unemployed young people (World Bank, 2016)². The worsening youth unemployment situation in the country led to the formation of “Unemployed Graduates Association of Ghana” as a pressure group to press home demand for youth jobs. Since then, there have been many national policies, legislations and programmes to address the general employment challenges in the country.

The NGLED is based on the principles that it is the business of LGs to do business in the promotion of LED to create jobs and improve the income levels of the people. In this

¹ The Knowledge Platform on Inclusive Development Policies (INCLUDE) was conceived in 2012 by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs to promote evidence-based policymaking for inclusive development in Africa.

² WB. (2016). *Expanding job opportunities in Ghana*. Washington: The World Bank

approach, the LGs directly support productive economic sectors/activities, encourage partnerships, provide entrepreneurial support, improve governance and supports business development of local residents through coaching and mentoring. The NGLED works on the basis that job creation does not simply take place because there is an ‘enabling environment’; it has to be nurtured by an entrepreneurial LG.

As part of its mandate to build the capacity of LGs and develop innovative approaches to promoting LED, the ILGS is undertaking action research in 5 districts on NGLED. The action research will provide opportunities to analyse entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial attitudinal change among young people and LG officials respectively when trained and facilitated to pursue productive economic activities for sustainable job creation and income growth. The project aims at setting-up 5 youth business groups of 4 persons each (a mix of young men and women) and support them with hands-on entrepreneurial skills to enable them develop business products for the market. Under the management of the Centre for LED at ILGS, the project will support hands-on intrapreneurial skills among the district assembly officials and together with the youth groups operate public-private partnerships (PPPs) for LED. A special purpose vehicle (SPV) will be established to manage the NGLED programme.

By the end of each year, the 5 start-up youth groups are expected to develop economic products for the market and replicate themselves by creating five additional groups of four persons with the same support (as provided by the project), thereby making the working seed capital operate as a revolving fund. In addition to the creation of sustainable decent jobs, the project is expected to result in changes in the way LGs conceptualise and implement LED.

The 5 District Assemblies that have been selected for this action research are:

- a) Atiwa East – Livestock production (Poultry)
- b) Sekondi Takoradi – Livestock production (Goats)
- c) Nsawam-Adoagyiri – Aquaculture (Catfish production)
- d) Awutu Senya East – Aquaculture (Catfish production)
- e) Komenda Edina Eguafo Abrem Municipal – Aquaculture (Catfish production)

The districts have been selected on the basis of their LED strategic plans, proximity to Accra (to allow for effective monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL)), and commitment to ensuring the success and long-term sustainability of the project.

2. THE WORKSHOP ON ENTREPRENEURIAL AND INTRAPRENEURIAL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Following the selection of the districts and the youth groups (20 young people), the ILGS is inviting the participating members of the youth groups and their LG officers to a two-day training workshop on entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial skills development. The workshop seeks to:

- a. explain the purpose, strategies and activities of the project;
- b. discuss the rudiments of entrepreneurial and intrapreneurial skills and mindset, and team building;

- c. provide opportunities for the youth groups and their LGs to present their projects to experts, government officials, some development partners and private sector practitioners/experts in their chosen field;
- d. discuss the SPV and the institutional arrangement for its operations and management;
- e. prepare the youth and LG officers for the project take-off

It is expected that at the end of the workshop, the youth groups and their LG officials would have learned, prepared their mind and ready for the commencement and full implementation of the project.

3. List of Participants

A total of 40 participants will attend the training workshop. Each participating district will be represented by 2 LG officers in charge of their LED and the 4 members of the youth group. The table below shows the list of participating institutions and their representations.

Institution	No. of Participants
1. Atiwa East District	6
2. Sekondi Takoradi Metro	6
3. Nsawam-Adoagyiri	6
4. Awutu Senya East	6
5. Komenda Edina Eguafo Abrem Municipal	6
6. Ministry of LG, Decentralisation & RD	1
7. ILGS	4
8. Practitioners/Experts	3
9. Swiss Economic Development Cooperation	1
10. Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Decentralisation	1
Total	40

4. Programme

	WHEN	WHAT	WHO
	17 th June 5pm	Arrival of Participants Check-in at ILGS Hostel	Ms Rita Agyakwa
Day 1	8:00am – 8:30am	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrival and Registration ▪ Opening Prayer ▪ Introductions 	Project Team
	8:30am - 10:30am	Overview of the Youth Economic Inclusion Project	Prof: Nicholas Awortwi (Director, ILGS)

		Discussions about the project	
	10:30am – 11:00am	Snack Break	ILGS Hospitality
	11:00am – 12:00	Discussions on Entrepreneurial Skills, Teambuilding and Business Development	Dr. Jerome Rudolf Awortwe-Abban & Kwasi Lanyo
	12:00 – 1:00pm	Discussions on Intrapreneurial Skills Development	Prof. Nicholas Awortwi
	1:00pm – 2:00pm	Lunch Break	ILGS Hospitality
	2:00pm – 3:00pm	Developing Fish Farming: what you need to know	Expert & practitioners
	3:00pm – 4:00pm	Poultry and Animal Rearing: what you need to know	Expert & practitioners
	4:30pm – 5:00pm	Reflections	David Osei Wusu
Day 2	8:30am – 9:00am	Recap of Previous Day's Activities	Sunday Kampoli
	9:00am – 09:45am	Discussions on the SPV, Institutional management, procurement & contractual Issues	David Osei-Wusu
	10:00am – 11.30am	Presentation by groups	Kwasi Lanyo
	11:30pm – 12:30pm	Issues Emerging and Next Steps of the Project	Prof Nicholas Awortwi & Project Team
	12:30-1.30pm	Lunch Break & Departure	ILGS Hospitality